

your stuff on your property—this is a biblical concept. It's an English common law concept. It's American common law, and it's part of our EPA regulatory regime. The idea is to be accountable for what you do on your property and hold those incidents on your property and not have the opportunity to belch and burn and dump on somebody else's because that creates a market distortion.

Over the weeks to come, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to talking more about that market distortion and how it is we might change that and how we might use the power of free enterprise to create these jobs, to solve the environmental challenge and to address this national security risk. In my view, it's the triple play opportunity of this American century. It's something we should be very excited about, and it's a terrific bipartisan opportunity. I look forward to talking more about that.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROSLEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO LAKE ERIE RESCUERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the exemplary efforts of the United States Coast Guard, along with many State and local agencies, for their rapid response and flawless execution in rescuing 134 ice fishermen from an ice floe off the coast of Lake Erie on Saturday.

The call for help came in to the Coast Guard at approximately 10:45 a.m. By early afternoon, everyone was rescued. One man, sadly, who had fallen into the water, later suffered a fatal heart attack, and our sympathy goes out to his family.

Saturday's heroic rescue is a testament to the cooperation of various units: The Coast Guard stations in Toledo and Marblehead, Ohio; Detroit, Traverse City, Belle Isle, and St. Clair Shores, Michigan; and even Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

The Coast Guard cutter Mackinaw; the Ottawa, Ohio Sheriff's Department; the Ohio State Highway Patrol; Monroe County, Michigan Sheriff's Department; Jervis, Carol, and Washington townships; Toledo Life Flight; the Ca-

nadian Coast Guard; and, yes, countless local citizens.

I wanted to take this opportunity to call attention to their heroism and outstanding deeds. Hundreds of families, thousands of people, are grateful to them for their actions that prevented a real catastrophe.

My constituents rely on the tireless efforts of the Coast Guard and law enforcement to protect America's fourth sea coast along our Great Lakes. The partnership between all levels of law enforcement and seamless communication between these agencies are critical for my constituents who know that, in difficult times like this, there's a team of agencies that they can rely upon.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans and Canadians venture into Lake Erie to participate in the region's rich sports fishing industry. Estimates show each year, the sports fishing industry on Lake Erie alone contributes up to \$700 million toward our local economy. This backbone to the local economy would not exist without the capable support of first responders.

I would like to commend in particular Ottawa County Sheriff Robert Bratton, Lucas County Sheriff James Telb, the Coast Guard, and other local law enforcement officials, for their vigilance in protecting our fishermen from this danger.

In addition, I would like to commend local officials on efforts to develop a system in quantifying the dangers related to ice floes and educate fishermen on the dangers of ice fishing.

As our country faces the challenges of updating law enforcement to confront the challenges of the 21st century, we should look inward at the expertise of these local officials. For generations, it has been the Coast Guard and local law enforcement that has protected sailors, fishermen, and boaters from our region from these dangers.

I will submit for the RECORD the activities of a number of Coast Guard employees for their work in coordinating rescue operations. Their expertise and heroism must be properly commended.

And it is a tribute at the highest order to read into the RECORD the names of those who participated in this rescue effort: Petty Officer Jason Rice, Sector Detroit; Petty Officer Chad Pietszak, Station Marblehead, coxswain; Petty Officer Jason Venema, Station Marblehead, crewman; Petty Officer Aaron Pitney, Station Toledo, rescue swimmer; Coleman Selm, Air Station Detroit; and Public Affairs Chief Robert Lanier.

It is a tribute of the highest order to recognize these exceptional service members whose devotion to duty exemplifies America's real homeland security.

Thank you.

1. OS1 Jason Rice, Sector Detroit, Command Center: As the lead Operational Controller, Petty Officer Rice initiated a Safety Broadcast prior to the event to warn fishermen. He received notification of the event, dispatched initial resources, and provided ac-

curate and quick notifications up the chain of command including detailed log entries throughout the event. His recommendations, calm demeanor and professional knowledge ensured the CG dispatched the correct resources and relayed critical information to other first responder agencies. Petty Officer Rice ensured the CG helo was immediately tasked to assist with Person In Water (PIW) & coordinated information flow on medical evacuation to the Fireland Hospital.

2. BM2 Chad Pietszak, Station Marblehead: coxswain on airboat that provided organization, communication and safe transportation during ferry operations. Petty Officer Pietszak's skilled operation of the airboat ensured 94 fishermen were safely transferred from the ice floe to the staging area with no injuries during the evolution.

3. BM2 Jason Venema, Station Marblehead: crewman on airboat that provided organization, communication and safe transportation during ferry operations. Petty Officer Venema ensured 94 passengers were safely embarked, comfortable and delivered from the ice floe to the staging area.

4. BM1 Aaron Pitney, Station Toledo: Station Executive Petty Officer and ice rescue team leader from STA Toledo. Petty Officer Pitney dispatched to scene and liaison with other first responders and law enforcement agencies. He assisted with dragging fire department's 21 foot boat hundreds of yards offshore, assisted with directing and receiving fishermen being ferried off the ice. Assisted MSU Toledo with tracking down details of sunken four-wheeler and air boat.

5. AST3 Coleman Selm, Air Station Detroit: rescue swimmer onboard Coast Guard helicopter CG6553 that participated in the medical evacuation. He performed a direct deployment double lift recovery of the PIW, and then performed CPR with the flight mechanic assisting until PIW was delivered to awaiting medical personnel at Firelands Hospital helipad. He also participated in the extensive aerial search effort, locating several stranded fishermen.

6. PAC Robert Lanier, D9 Public Affairs Chief. Within minutes of the initial report, Chief Lanier recognized the gravity of the situation and mobilized the entire external affairs division. He sent a team to the Incident Cmd Post at the scene, and personally supervised a team at the D9 office. His group aggressively released info and imagery to the media in a timely manner, and conducted numerous national media interviews, garnering extensive coverage.

It is a tribute of the highest order to recognize these exceptional service members whose devotion to duty exemplifies America's real homeland security.

RUIN YOUR HEALTH WITH THE OBAMA STIMULUS PLAN: BETSY MCCAUGHEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the so-called economic stimulus bill involves itself in health care. And, Mr. Speaker, if the seniors in this country and the AARP take a real close look at this bill, I believe seniors would not only be calling the Capitol, raising cane about what's in it, but they'll be marching on the Capitol.

What it's going to do is it's going to require that there will be rationing, and it will be based upon some formulas that will say if you only have an

expectation of another 8 or 9 years of life left, or 4 or 5 years, that they will ration the care that you get based upon the life expectancy. It's unbelievable.

Let me just read to you some things that Mr. Daschle had put in the bill before he was removed as the potential head of HHS. Daschle proposed an appointed body with vast powers to make the tough decisions elected politicians won't make.

The stimulus bill does that, and calls it the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research. Pages 190-192 in the bill. The goal, Daschle's book explained, is to slow the development and use of new medications and technologies because they're driving up costs. He praises Europeans for being more willing to accept "hopeless diagnoses" and "forego experimental treatments," and he chastises Americans for expecting too much from our health care system. The elderly are hit the hardest.

Daschle says health care reform "will not be pain-free." Seniors should be more accepting of the conditions that come with age, instead of treating them. That means the elderly will bear the brunt of what is in this bill.

Medicare now pays for treatments deemed safe and effective. The stimulus bill would change that and apply a cost effectiveness standard set by the Federal Council. The Federal Council is modeled after a United Kingdom board discussed in Daschle's book. This board approves or rejects treatments using a formula that divides the cost of the treatment by the number of years the patient is likely to benefit.

So they are going to figure out how many years you're supposed to live and then they're going to divide the treatment based upon the years. Treatments for younger patients are more often approved than treatments for diseases that affect the elderly, such as osteoporosis.

In 2006, a UK health board decreed that elderly patients with macular degeneration had to wait until they went blind in one eye before you could get a costly new drug to save the other eye. It took almost 3 years of public protests before the board reversed its decision.

There are hidden provisions in this bill. If the Obama administration's economic stimulus bill passes in its current form, seniors in the U.S. will face similar rationing of health care. Defenders of the system say that individuals benefit in younger years and sacrifice later. Let me say that gain. Seniors in the U.S. will face similar rationing of health care as they have in the UK.

The stimulus bill will affect every part of health care, from the medical and nursing education, to how patients are treated and how much hospitals get paid. The bill allocates more funding for this bureaucracy than for the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force combined.

Hiding health legislation in a stimulus bill is intentional. Daschle sup-

ported the Clinton administration's health care overhaul in 1994, and attributed its failure to debate and delay. A year ago, Daschle wrote that the next President should act quickly before critics mount opposition. "If that means attaching a health care plan," and this is a quote now, "If that means attaching a health care plan to the Federal budget, so be it," he said. "The issue is too important to be stalled by Senate protocol."

If I were talking to the seniors of this country, I'd say you really ought to read this bill. You ought to look at pages 445, 454, 479, 442, 446, 511, 518, 540, 541, 190, 192, and 464. I know I went through those fast, but I am going to put this in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and it will be on my Web site.

But every senior American and the AARP ought to be very concerned about this, Mr. Speaker, because it will result in rationing health care for seniors, and it will minimize health care for a lot of other people as well, even because they are younger.

And the doctors in this country and the nurses and health care officials ought to be very concerned because it's going to impose penalties on them if they don't follow the government's requirements. It's in the bill. This isn't baloney. And I hope my colleagues and everybody will take a hard look at it.

Mr. Speaker, if the seniors across this country are paying attention, I hope they will read the bill as well.

RUIN YOUR HEALTH WITH THE OBAMA STIMULUS PLAN

(Commentary by Betsy McCaughey)

Feb. 9 (Bloomberg)—Republican Senators are questioning whether President Barack Obama's stimulus bill contains the right mix of tax breaks and cash infusions to jumpstart the economy.

Tragically, no one from either party is objecting to the health provisions slipped in without discussion. These provisions reflect the handiwork of Tom Daschle, until recently the nominee to head the Health and Human Services Department.

Senators should read these provisions and vote against them because they are dangerous to your health. (Page numbers refer to H.R. 1 EH, pdf version).

The bill's health rules will affect "every individual in the United States" (445, 454, 479). Your medical treatments will be tracked electronically by a federal system. Having electronic medical records at your fingertips, easily transferred to a hospital, is beneficial. It will help avoid duplicate tests and errors.

But the bill goes further. One new bureaucracy, the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology, will monitor treatments to make sure your doctor is doing what the federal government deems appropriate and cost effective. The goal is to reduce costs and "guide" your doctor's decisions (442, 446). These provisions in the stimulus bill are virtually identical to what Daschle prescribed in his 2008 book, "Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis." According to Daschle, doctors have to give up autonomy and "learn to operate less like solo practitioners."

Keeping doctors informed of the newest medical findings is important, but enforcing uniformity goes too far.

NEW PENALTIES

Hospitals and doctors that are not "meaningful users" of the new system will face

penalties. "Meaningful user" isn't defined in the bill. That will be left to the HHS secretary, who will be empowered to impose "more stringent measures of meaningful use over time" (511, 518, 540-541).

What penalties will deter your doctor from going beyond the electronically delivered protocols when your condition is atypical or you need an experimental treatment? The vagueness is intentional. In his book, Daschle proposed an appointed body with vast powers to make the "tough" decisions elected politicians won't make.

The stimulus bill does that, and calls it the Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research (190-192). The goal, Daschle's book explained, is to slow the development and use of new medications and technologies because they are driving up costs. He praises Europeans for being more willing to accept "hopeless diagnoses" and "forgo experimental treatments," and he chastises Americans for expecting too much from the healthcare system.

ELDERLY HARDEST HIT

Daschle says health-care reform "will not be pain free." Seniors should be more accepting of the conditions that come with age instead of treating them. That means the elderly will bear the brunt.

Medicare now pays for treatments deemed safe and effective. The stimulus bill would change that and apply a cost-effectiveness standard set by the Federal Council (464).

The Federal Council is modeled after a U.K. board discussed in Daschle's book. This board approves or rejects treatments using a formula that divides the cost of the treatment by the number of years the patient is likely to benefit. Treatments for younger patients are more often approved than treatments for diseases that affect the elderly, such as osteoporosis.

In 2006, a U.K. health board decreed that elderly patients with macular degeneration had to wait until they went blind in one eye before they could get a costly new drug to save the other eye. It took almost three years of public protests before the board reversed its decision.

HIDDEN PROVISIONS

If the Obama administration's economic stimulus bill passes the Senate in its current form, seniors in the U.S. will face similar rationing. Defenders of the system say that individuals benefit in younger years and sacrifice later.

The stimulus bill will affect every part of health care, from medical and nursing education, to how patients are treated and how much hospitals get paid. The bill allocates more funding for this bureaucracy than for the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force combined (90-92, 174-177, 181).

Hiding health legislation in a stimulus bill is intentional. Daschle supported the Clinton administration's health-care overhaul in 1994, and attributed its failure to debate and delay. A year ago, Daschle wrote that the next president should act quickly before critics mount an opposition. "If that means attaching a health-care plan to the federal budget, so be it," he said. "The issue is too important to be stalled by Senate protocol."

MORE SCRUTINY NEEDED

On Friday, President Obama called it "inexcusable and irresponsible" for senators to delay passing the stimulus bill. In truth, this bill needs more scrutiny.

The health-care industry is the largest employer in the U.S. It produces almost 17 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. Yet the bill treats health care the way European governments do: as a cost problem instead of a growth industry. Imagine limiting growth and innovation in the electronics or

auto industry during this downturn. This stimulus is dangerous to your health and the economy.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the January job numbers told Americans something they already knew. Things are bad. They are bad all over in almost every sector of the economy and almost every section of the country.

In a hearing before the Joint Economic Committee, I asked the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics if there was any bright spots in the labor report. And he said, and I quote, "No. No good news comes to mind."

These latest job losses add to the overwhelming evidence that we must get a recovery package to the President's desk fast. People are hurting and crying out all across the country for help from the people in this Chamber.

More than 3.6 million jobs have been lost since the recession began in 2007, including the nearly 600,000 jobs shed in January alone. Six hundred thousand jobs is equivalent to all the workers in the State of Maine.

My home State of New York has been especially hard hit. Almost 48,000 jobs were slashed. Familiar and storied names, such as Macy's, Estee Lauder, Time Warner, Bloomberg News, and many others, have laid off employees.

We are now hearing that seven States have already exhausted their unemployment insurance, and another 11 States may see their funds exhausted by the end of 2009.

More than 2 million homes have gone into foreclosure, and millions of other homeowners find themselves owing more to the bank than their homes are worth. Because of lost jobs, millions also lost their health insurance. Many have lost their savings. An estimated \$6 trillion in personal wealth has simply evaporated.

A solution to this crisis requires a bold action and addresses the magnitude of our economic woes, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan will do just that. The recovery package will create or save an estimated 4 million jobs across a variety of sectors. It will soften the downturn and foster a solid economic recovery that benefits all Americans.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has called for the passage of the Recovery Act. The National Governors Association says that they support the bill. The bill even has the support of most GOP Governors.

The latest Gallup poll shows that 80 percent of Americans believe that passing a new stimulus plan is either "important," or "critically important." Even 66 percent of Republicans told the Gallup pollsters that it is either important or critically important to pass the

bill. Perhaps because they know that America's schools, roads, bridges, and water systems are in disrepair, and this creates a drag on economic growth.

We have an historic opportunity to make the investments necessary to modernize our public infrastructure. We can begin to transition to a clean energy economy that will make us more competitive in the future.

Yes, there are conflicting visions of the perfect bill. Some Nobel Laureates in economics say the stimulus is not big enough. Some would have us do less. But now is the time to put aside whatever differences we might have in our economic theories and put the needs of our country first.

The building where the Joint Economic Committee holds its hearings is dedicated to the memory of Senator Everett Dirksen. On the plaque we pass every day, it reads, and I quote, "His unerring sense of the possible enabled him to know when to compromise, by such men are our freedoms retained. His greatness will forever be an inspiration."

President Obama and the Democrats are ready to embark on a bold, commonsense plan to turn this economy around, to address the fierce urgency of now, and to get this country back on its feet. We urge you to stand with us shoulder to shoulder as we act to put America back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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OSCAR ELIAS BISCET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. This last December 6, 2 months ago, was the ninth anniversary of the imprisonment—the cruel and unjust imprisonment in a cold and damp cell in the most inhuman of condi-

tions—of the great Cuban leader in the fight for democracy and human rights in that enslaved island, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. Dr. Biscet is prohibited from even walking in the prison's yard, and he is incarcerated along with common criminals.

Dr. Biscet was released from prison in 2003, for a few weeks, before being rearrested and subsequently sentenced to 25 years in the gulag due to his peaceful pro-democracy activities.

Biscet personifies the opposition to the brutal totalitarian regime Fidel Castro and his brother, who the dictator has now given some additional titles to because of the ailing tyrant's failing health.

Dr. Biscet is an admirer of Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

A physician by training, he began his opposition to the totalitarian regime by speaking out against the regime's forced abortion when there is any indication whatsoever that a pregnancy may have an abnormality policy. Biscet described that policy as inhuman. He was immediately fired from his job at the hospital, prohibited from practicing his profession as a physician, and his wife Elsa Morejon was also fired from her job as a practicing nurse. Within hours, the couple and their son were summarily evicted from their apartment and their physical possessions thrown into the street.

Fortunately, an elderly patient of Elsa allowed the family to move into her house. Dr. Biscet continued peacefully denouncing the totalitarian regime's absolute denial of human rights to the Cuban people; and, because of that, he has been unjustly and cruelly imprisoned for 9 years and counting.

Hundreds of other brave human rights activists are also suffering in the political prisons of the Cuban totalitarian dictatorship for the crime of supporting democracy and liberty and opposing tyranny, including 23 known journalists thrown into dungeons because of articles they wrote that bothered the dictator. No regime in the world has more journalists in prison, with the possible exception of another totalitarian dictatorship in an obviously much larger nation, communist China.

A few weeks ago, the respected international organization, Reporters Without Borders, gave one of those Cuban journalists in the gulag, Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, sentenced by the Cuban tyrant to 20 years in prison in 2003, and currently in very poor health, the Reporters Without Borders Journalist of the Year Award. Reporters Without Border is to be commended, Mr. Speaker.

Three other Cuban prisoners of conscience, Aldolfo Fernandez Sainz, Pedro Arguelles Moran, and Antonio Diaz Sanchez, are known to have begun a hunger strike due to brutal conditions they are subjected to. Where is the outrage, Mr. Speaker? Where is the international solidarity? Where is there one word of coverage of this in the world's press?